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INSTRUCTIONS

CONCERNING THE

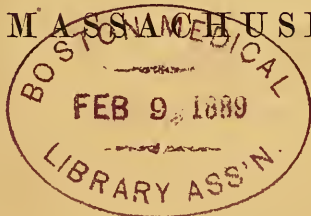
REGISTRATION

OF

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS,

IN

MASSACHUSETTS.



BY OLIVER WARNER,

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

BOSTON:

WILLIAM WHITE, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1860.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, BOSTON, May 15, 1860.

SIR,—I herewith transmit to you so much of the newly revised statutes of the Commonwealth as relates to the Registry and Returns of Births, Marriages and Deaths, occurring therein. The entire code, as thus revised, is required to go into effect on the first day of June of the current year. It is necessary, therefore, that the provisions respecting the registration of the above mentioned events should then be carried *at once* into operation. It is also desirable that all the *deaths* which may have occurred during the portion of the year which precedes that date, and which have not been already reported, be carefully ascertained and registered without delay,—thereby securing so far as possible completeness in the returns of the entire year. An important reason, for the early adoption of the modified system, is furnished by the fact that the National Census of the population of the State is to be taken about the middle of the year 1860, and if *every* case of death, birth, and marriage be duly registered, together with the illustrative circumstances required by law, comparison of

these facts with those of the census will afford deductions most valuable to the people of the Commonwealth, and which will prove important contributions to practical science.

Among important deductions which may be elicited from faithfully registered facts of this description, may be mentioned those relating to the salubrity of localities and of occupations ; and, tables for measuring, the vitality at all ages of different communities, or classes of community, known as Life Tables, and useful in the solution of very many practical questions which the laws of population involve.

Independently of statistical considerations, the historical and judicial importance of full and correct records of these facts, as evidence in facilitating the legitimate descent of heritable property, and in determining the legal settlement of certain residents, (the latter now a source of frequent and vexatious litigation between towns,) is not likely to be estimated too highly.

According to carefully considered estimates, by those familiar with such investigations, it appears probable that the number of births, marriages and deaths occurring in the State which escape unregistered is by no means inconsiderable. The deficiencies in the returns of births during the last *three* years, for which official abstracts have been prepared, are probably somewhat less, than those of deaths during the same period. These deficiencies do not seem to be uniformly distributed among the several towns ; but, while from many places there is reason to believe that few, if any, cases escaped unnoticed, in others the deficiencies are great.

The most important of the new requirements appears to be that relating to the registration of deaths BEFORE THE INTERMENT. It is hoped that no pains will be spared on the part of the Recording Officers in the several towns and cities to give efficiency to this provision, by impressing upon undertakers and others, charged with duties pertaining to the burial of the dead, the urgent necessity of a faithful observance of the requirements of the law.

The responsibility of obtaining the facts respecting cases of *death*, must rest practically upon the Town Clerk and upon the person answerable for the burial; those concerning *marriage*, upon the Clerk and the person before whom the marriage is solemnized; and those relating to *birth*, if of children who die before the close of the year, upon the Clerk and the person responsible for the burial; if of children who are living at the close of the year, upon the Clerk solely. A limited portion of the births and deaths (especially births) which occur may be returned by parents and friends,—but, experience, here and elsewhere, has shown that to insure complete returns little reliance can be placed on the attainment of information from these sources, and that the responsibility must fall upon a *few* officers well informed as to their duties. The chief responsibility must rest upon the clerk himself, as eventually it becomes his duty to supply all deficiencies by carefully ascertaining the particulars concerning all those cases which are not reported to him by others for registration.

The accompanying instructions have been prepared under my direction by E. B. ELLIOTT, Esq., a gentleman eminently qualified for the task, having given much

attention to statistical investigations, and the influence of legislation on statistical returns.

Confidently relying upon your ready and earnest coöperation in reference to the objects to which your attention has thus been called, and which are more fully explained in the following pages,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your faithful servant,

OLIVER WARNER,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

To the Clerk of the Town of ———.

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INSTRUCTIONS

TO TOWN CLERKS AND OTHER REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS,
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

By referring to Chapters 21 and 106 of the General Statutes, and comparing the same with the law previous to the late revision, it will be observed that the changes in the law require new blank forms of returns, impose duties on new officers (Physicians,) and modify the duties hitherto enjoined on other officers.

SUMMARY OF THE NEW PROVISIONS.

While a few additional *subjects of inquiry* are introduced by the new law into the schedules of births, marriages and deaths, its provisions affect *mainly* the *machinery* for the registration of DEATHS; and the particulars respecting any person deceased, will hereafter be required to be returned to the Town Clerk, and a certificate of registry obtained from him *before the burial*, when practicable, instead of, as now, before the tenth day of the month next following,—securing thereby the records of the facts as near as may be to the time of the event; the object being to insure if possible the record and return of *every* case of *death* that shall occur in the State. According to the new provisions, the Physician in attendance during the last illness must, *when requested* for the purpose of

registration, forthwith give his *certificate* of the cause of the death, and the duration of the last sickness, as nearly as he can state the same; information, it will be observed, of strictly a professional character:—penalty, in case of refusal or neglect, ten dollars. The new provisions also advance the *fee* of the Clerk for each death duly returned, from the inadequate one of *five* cents, as heretofore, to that of “twenty cents for each of the first twenty entries, and ten cents for each subsequent entry.” They also require that the *accounts* of the Clerks for compensation on receiving or “obtaining, recording, indexing, and returning to the Secretary of the Commonwealth” the facts in relation to the births, the marriages, and the deaths that may occur in their respective towns, shall, before payment thereof by such towns, be *certified by the Secretary of the Commonwealth*. Also, that the *record* of the Town Clerk, in relation to any birth, marriage, or death, shall be *prima facie* evidence in legal proceedings, of the facts recorded; and that the certificate of the town clerk for the time being, shall be admissible as evidence of any such record. For every such certificate (see General Statutes, chapter 29, section 10) the clerk is entitled to receive a reasonable fee from the person applying therefor. They also require that the *certificate of intention* of marriage issued by the Clerk specify *all* the facts required to be ascertained and recorded concerning marriage, except those respecting the person solemnizing the marriage. This provision is in conformity with custom hitherto, but has not before been incorporated in the Statutes. The new provisions also make it the duty of the Secretary to *prosecute*, in the name of the Commonwealth, for the recovery of any

penalty or forfeiture imposed by the act. They also empower any town or city to make additional rules and regulations tending to secure a *more perfect* registration of births, deaths and marriages, therein.

NEW SUBJECTS OF INQUIRY.

To the subjects of inquiry hitherto prescribed concerning Birth, the new law adds the *color* of the child, and the *birthplace* of each parent, [see Schedules A and G]; to those of Marriage it adds the *color* and *birthplace* of each of the parties married; [see Schedules B and H;] and to those of Death, the *color* and *residence* of the deceased, the *birthplace* of each parent, and the *duration* of the disease. [See Schedules C and J.]

With the present name should be recorded the maiden name of each married woman or widow mentioned in the returns; as, for example, Jane Williams, (m. n.) Smith. In case of the decease of a wife or a widow, it would be well for the record of the death also to exhibit the name of the last husband. [See Schedules C and J.]

If any parent mentioned in the return of a birth, a marriage, or a death, is *not living* at the time of the event, the fact may be indicated by writing *dec.* after the name of such parent.

MODE OF ENTRY IN BOOKS OF RECORD.

New Books of Record will not be needed. The occupying of *two* lines for the record of each birth, and death, instead of *one* as heretofore, will adapt those already in use to the insertion of all the required particulars.

In the Record Book of BIRTHS, state under the name of the child, its color; and let a separate line be employed for the name of each parent. [For example, see Schedule G.]

In the Record Book of MARRIAGES, after the name, insert the color of each party. [See Schedule H.]

In the Record Book of DEATHS, with the name of the deceased, insert the color; in the column with the place of death, insert on the line below, the residence of the deceased, if the places are different; occupy two lines for the names of the parents, placing the name of the mother beneath that of the father; after the name of each parent, insert his or her birthplace. [See Schedule J.]

No entry need be made as to "condition," in the record book of Births, except in cases of plural births (as twins, triplets, &c.) or in cases of illegitimacy. In the record book of Deaths under "condition," state whether single, married, or widowed.

The Clerk, in making transfer of the particulars from the Returns to the several Books of Record, may omit mention of *color*, if White; but should carefully record and report all cases of African or Mixed race.

CASE OF CHILD BORN AND DECEASED DURING THE OFFICIAL YEAR.

In case of the decease of a child born since the commencement of the current year, the Clerk is requested forthwith to obtain from the undertaker, or other person informing of the death, (which person should in such case fill out, not only, the blank form of the "return of a death," but also, that of the "return

of a birth,") the particulars required concerning the *birth* of such child, and, after making the proper record in the record book of Deaths, immediately to register the facts in the record book of BIRTHS. This course will render more complete the returns of births; for there is reason to believe that an unduly large proportion of these events that escape unregistered are of children who die previous to the time when the customary annual or semi-annual inquiries concerning births are made.

The return of birth requires the following particulars not enumerated in the return of death,—the date of the birth, the occupation of the father, and the residence of each parent, (which residence will in some cases differ from the place of the birth of the child.)

OF STILL BIRTHS.

It is desired that the facts concerning still births should be entered in the record book of deaths and returned to the Secretary uniformly with the deaths.

DISTRIBUTION OF BLANK FORMS OF RETURNS, AND OF COPIES OF INSTRUCTIONS.

New blank forms of returns for the use of the persons who may be required to give information have been furnished, and, if not already done, each Town Clerk or registrar is hereby directed to make immediate and proper distribution thereof. Blank forms of the certificate of causes of death should be at once delivered to each practicing Physician in the town; and blank forms, both of the return of death, and of the physician's certificate of its cause, to each Undertaker, Superintendent of Burials and of burial places,

and to other persons upon whom usually devolve the direction of funeral ceremonies. A copy of these instructions may in each case accompany such distribution of blank forms of returns, and may also be furnished to each Clergyman authorized to solemnize marriages in such town.

It is recommended that the original Returns of Informants be hereafter in all cases preserved. The returns of each year can, if desired, be bound together for better preservation, a sufficient margin being provided for this purpose.

On inspection of the Statutes, it will be seen that it is the

DUTY OF THE SECRETARY

of the Commonwealth, not only, to furnish suitable blank books and forms, accompanied with needful instructions and explanations; and to properly care for, discuss and report upon the returns; but also, to *enforce* the provisions of the law by prosecuting for all penalties and forfeitures imposed therein; and, in fine, to “do all other acts necessary to carry into effect its provisions.”

It is the

DUTY OF THE TOWN CLERK [OR REGISTRAR].

not only to “receive” such returns as may, from time to time, be made to him by Undertakers, Physicians, Clergymen and others, but also to supply all deficiencies, by “*obtaining*” the facts respecting events not so returned—so that his record may faithfully represent *all* the cases of deaths, births, and marriages, which occur in his town. It may in certain cases (though rarely)

be impossible to ascertain all the particulars required by law relative to each event, but *the event itself should never escape unnoticed*. Unless the records of every town, in this respect can be relied on, the returns will possess, for statistical purposes, but little value.

Clerk to give Certificate of Registry of Death to Person making the Return.—In addition to the duties heretofore enjoined on the Town Clerk, viz. ;—of receiving or obtaining, recording, indexing, and returning to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the facts required by law concerning births, marriages, and deaths, of entering intentions of marriage and issuing certificates thereof, and of making such distribution of blank forms of returns, as the Secretary shall direct,—it becomes his duty, under the present law, to give to the Person making Return of the facts respecting a person *deceased*, immediately after registering the same, a Certificate of such return, for redelivery to the Person who is to have charge of the interment. [See form in Schedule E.]

On Receiving Incomplete Return of Death.—If a burial takes place without such Certificate, and the Town Clerk receives notice thereof, from the person having charge of the interment or otherwise, unaccompanied by a full return of the particulars required to be recorded, he should *forthwith* acquaint himself with and make record of such particulars,—including the cause of death as certified by the Physician (if any) in attendance during the last illness.

Of Marriage.—It is the duty of the Clerk to *record*, not only, all the marriages solemnized in his town, but also, when returned to him, the facts respecting marriages solemnized *elsewhere*, if either of the parties to the marriage is a resident of such town.

Certificate of Entry of Intention of Marriage not to issue to certain Minors.—The Town Clerk is forbidden, under penalty, to issue certificate of entry of intention of marriage to parties, either of whom he has reason to suppose is *under the full age* required by law, except upon the application or *written* consent of the parent or guardian, if any within the State competent to act.

Affidavit of Age may be required.—The Clerk may require from the person applying for such certificate, an affidavit as to the age of the parties. Penalty, for false statement by the person so applying, a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars.

Penalty.—For each case of refusal or neglect to perform the duties prescribed by law, he is subject to a penalty of from twenty to one hundred dollars.

Under the new provisions it becomes the

DUTY OF THE UNDERTAKER,

or other officer having charge of the obsequies or funeral rites *preliminary* to an interment, forthwith to obtain all the particulars required by law to be recorded concerning the person deceased—including a statement*

* The following is a convenient form of Official REQUEST for the Physician's Certificate, to be left at his residence, when practicable, within twenty-four hours after the decease—if he has neglected to provide such certificate for the use of the person who may apply therefor; the certificate to be again called for (if not otherwise received) for redelivery to the Town Clerk before the burial.

A *blank form* of the required certificate should usually accompany the Request.

To _____, M. D.

Sir,—You are hereby requested to furnish forthwith for Registration, according to law, a certificate respecting the cause of the death of _____, who died at _____, on the _____ day of _____, 18—.

(Signed,) _____.

Dated at _____, _____, 18—.

[NOTE.—Penalty for non-compliance—ten dollars.]

(which should always be in writing) as to the cause of the death, from the Physician who may have attended the person during his last illness;—to make return of the same [see Schedules C and D] *forthwith*, to the Clerk of the town in which the deceased resided, or the death occurred, (ordinarily to the latter, —that is to the Clerk of the town in which the death occurred); to get the Clerk's Certificate of the return [see Schedule E]; and *promptly*—that is, *before burial* when practicable, otherwise within seven days thereafter—to deliver the same to the Person having charge of the Interment, if other than himself.

In case of a burial *before* such delivery of Clerk's Certificate, it becomes the

DUTY OF THE PERSON HAVING CHARGE OF THE INTERMENT,
forthwith, to give notice thereof to the Clerk above-mentioned, under penalty of twenty dollars. This notice should, when practicable, be accompanied with a complete return of the particulars required concerning the deceased.

WHEN THE SAME PERSON HAS CHARGE OF THE INTERMENT,
AND OF THE FUNERAL RITES PRELIMINARY.

It will be observed that *three* officers (exclusive of the physician) are charged with duties pertaining to the registry of each death;—(1) the Town Clerk or other Recording officer, (2) the Person having charge of the Funeral rites *preliminary* to the Interment, and (3) the Person having charge of the Interment itself. The duties of two, or more of these officers will sometimes be found to devolve on one person.

It will not unfrequently happen that the Person having charge of the rites *preliminary* to the interment, and the Person having charge of the interment itself, will be one and the same; in which case no re-delivery of Clerk's certificate is requisite, but the Person having such charge is, simply, to make due return of the particulars required and to obtain the Clerk's certificate thereof,—under penalty for neglect, as aforesaid.

WHEN THE RECORDING OFFICER IS SUPERINTENDENT OF BURIALS.

In certain places (as in Boston) the Recording officer is also by municipal regulation the Superintendent of burials and of burial-grounds, for his town or city. In case of an application for permission to bury *within* the territory under the control of such officer, there need be no formal delivery of certificate of registry by him to the Informant or other person so applying, to be re-delivered to the Person having the direction of interments in such district,—that is, to be re-delivered to the Recording officer himself,—but, after making due record of the facts required to be returned, he may, at once, grant the desired permission according to customary form. If the body is to be removed for interment *beyond* the limits of such city or town, the *certificate* of registry of the Recording officer, as such, and his *permission*, as Superintendent of burials, to remove the body for interment, may be *combined*. [See Schedule F.]

DUTIES OF THE PHYSICIAN.

Under the new law any practising member of any branch of the medical profession, who may have at-

tended a person during his last illness, is bound—if applied to within fifteen days after the decease of such person,—*forthwith*, to “furnish for registration a *certificate* of the duration of the last sickness, the disease of which the person died, and the date of the decease, as nearly as he can state the same.” Penalty, for non-compliance,—ten dollars.

Upon the Undertaker or other person who may be required to take charge of the funeral rites, will commonly devolve the duty of applying to the Physician for such certificate, to show to the Town Clerk or Registrar, and give as his information on the subject. This information the Undertaker is required to give to the Clerk, *forthwith*; and such application will commonly be made within twenty-four hours after the death, unless the Physician shall have previously left his certificate at the house where the death occurred.

In order to give greater efficiency to the provisions of the law and to facilitate their operation, it is earnestly *recommended*, that the Medical Practitioner, who may have been present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of any person, shall *place his certificate of the cause of the death, immediately after such death in the hands of some person who may be in attendance, or of some member of the household in which the death occurred*, for the use of the Undertaker or other informant, in making his return of the death to the Town Clerk or Registrar.

For the convenience of the Physician, and to render the returns more accurate and uniform, blank forms of certificates (compact and portable) have been prepared which may be obtained by the Physician on application to the Clerk or Registrar of the place in

which he resides. Copies of the Statistical Nosology, adopted in this State for the purposes of registration, may be obtained by him on application to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

Entire accuracy in stating the nature and duration of disease cannot reasonably be expected, but it is the belief of those most familiar with and interested in such inquiries, that the recorded opinions of medical

* The following valuable suggestions are from the "Report on the Nomenclature and Statistical Classification of Diseases for Statistical Return," prepared "for the consideration of the International Statistical Congress, which met at Paris, in September, 1855," by Dr. Farr, who for several years has had the practical direction of statistical inquiries on this subject in England. [See Appendix to Sixteenth Annual Report of the Registrar-General (Eng.) p. 79.] They appear originally to have been prepared by him, at the instance of the Registrar-General, for the use of medical men and coroners in England.

American practitioners may derive valuable hints therefrom.

"Suggestions to Medical Practitioners respecting the mode of returning the Causes of Death."

"(1.) State the causes of death in terms as precise and brief as possible; and use, if convenient, the names recommended in the Nosology, for the sake of uniformity. The space assigned for the entry in the Register Book will contain *about ten words*.

"(2.) Write the causes of death, where there are more than one, under each other, *in the order of their appearance*, and not in the presumed order of their importance.

"(3.) The duration of primary and secondary diseases in these returns will always be considered to imply the time intervening between the first appearance of well-marked characteristic symptoms and death. Smallpox, scarlatina, erysipelas, typhus, and all febrile and inflammatory diseases, should, however, be dated from the rigors and symptoms, not from the later appearance of the eruptions, &c. The time in the certificate, opposite the primary disease will, therefore, include the whole term of illness. Thus:—

{	Scarlatina maligna,		21 days.
{	Purulent infiltration,		7 days (p.m.)

implies that the earliest symptoms of scarlatina occurred 21 days before death, that 7 days before death purulent infiltration was ob-

practitioners are of value, and susceptible of many useful applications.

The duration of the disease should in all cases be *reckoned to the time of the death*.

When a death is the result of two or more successive or concurrent causes, *each* cause should be specified, and the duration thereof, as nearly as may be. The successive causes should in all cases be entered

served, and that a *post mortem* inspection of the body was instituted. So—

{	Hooping cough, ...	16 weeks.
{	Paralysis of motor nerves (right side), ...	4 weeks.
{	Pneumonia, ...	3 weeks.

is understood to mean that symptoms of the cough appeared 16 weeks, of the paralysis 4 weeks, of the pneumonia 3 weeks before death. Confusion has been produced in some returns by inattention to this point.

{	Childbirth, ...	4 days (<i>from commencement of labor to death must be invariably understood</i>).
{	Metria, ...	3 days (<i>from first symptoms till death</i>).
{	Childbirth, ...	7 days
{	Placenta prævia, with profuse hæmorrhage,	
{	Diarrhoea, ...	4 days
{	Smallpox, ...	23 days (<i>from first rigors till death understood</i>).
{	Convulsions, ...	20 hours (<i>before death</i>).
{	Vaccinated with doubtful effect 3 years ago.	
{	Smallpox (confluent), ...	21 days
{	first attack.	
{	vaccinated 8 years ago—one good cicatrix.	

“The term “vaccinated” is preferable to “after vaccination,” for the latter as generally employed is ambiguous.

“By the method now recommended, the use of conjunctive particles and other unimportant words is avoided. “Delirium tremens, brought on by excessive drinking of spirituous liquors (6 days),” might be abridged thus:—

{	Excessive use of spirits	
{	Delirium tremens, ...	6 days.

The former arrangement does not show clearly to what the *duration* (6 days) refers.

“No attempt should be made to guess the duration of *latent* stages of diseases; but it will generally be possible to fix on a point of time

“in the order of their appearance, not in the presumed order of their importance.”

In case of *post mortem* examination, the fact can be indicated in the certificate by writing *p. m.* after the name of the disease.

The Statistical Nosology adopted for Registration in this State is substantially that drawn up by Dr. William Farr, the eminent English Statistician, at the

near the access, when the patient had *no symptoms* of disease, and another, when the symptoms were unequivocal; if the disease be dated from the middle point of the intervening time, the results will admit of comparison. The duration should be stated in *minutes* or *hours*, when the disease is fatal in less than 48 hours; in *days*, in diseases of less than 50 days' duration; in *weeks* or *years*, for diseases of still longer duration. *Month* is an uncertain *measure* of time; when used in the returns, it will be deemed the *twelfth* part of a year.

“(4.) State, in fatal cases of SMALLPOX, whether VACCINATION had been performed WITH EFFECT, and WHEN; and in smallpox, measles, scarlatina, typhus, rheumatism, mania, delirium tremens, apoplexy, and the like diseases, whether it be the second, third, &c. attack, whenever the patient has sustained more attacks than one. In ague, epilepsy, convulsive diseases, angina pectoris, syncope, and other maladies which occur in fits or paroxysms, date the illness from the first fit; and add the duration of the last fatal fit; thus, *epilepsy 5 years; last fit 6 hours*.

“(5.) SURGEONS, in all cases of operation, should return (*a*) the primary disease or injury; (*b*) the operation; (*c*) the secondary diseases, such as erysipelas, purulent deposits, &c., and should state also the time from commencement of the primary diseases—the time from the operation—and the time from the appearance of secondary disease, *reckoning in each instance to the death*. Example:—

{	Femoral hernia,	.	.	.	.	.	3 years.
	Strangulated,	.	.	.	.	.	70 hours.
	Operation,	.	.	.	.	.	60 hours.
	Peritonitis,	.	.	.	.	.	45 hours.
	Heart and kidneys diseased	(p.m.)					

“(6.) It sometimes happens that the nature of the fatal disease cannot be discovered—even after a *post mortem* examination of all the organs—and still more frequently in the absence of an examination. *In such cases it is better to name one or more of the leading symptoms and peculiar appearances* than to assign a specific cause on imperfect, inadequate evidence. P.M. should be added when the causes of death have been verified by a post mortem inspection.”

instance of the International Statistical Congress, and, without doubt, will eventually be adopted, with perhaps slight modifications, throughout Europe. The importance of a precise nomenclature and classification of diseases, uniform with those of other countries where efficient systems prevail, and applicable to all countries, is so manifest that it need not here be urged.

The character of the members of the Medical Profession, and the interest which they are led by their pursuits to take in information of this nature, authorize the confident belief that they will afford their ready and important co-operation in rendering the registration of deaths as complete as possible.

The provisions prescribing the

DUTIES OF PERSONS BEFORE WHOM MARRIAGES MAY BE SOLEMNIZED,

have received, in revision, but little alteration.

Every Justice of the Peace, Minister, and Clerk or keeper of the records of meetings among Friends or Quakers, must make a full record of every marriage solemnized before him, and, between the first and tenth days of each month, must return a copy of so much of the record as relates to marriages taking place during the month next preceding, not only to the Clerk of the town in which the marriage is solemnized, but also—if neither of the parties to the marriage resides in such town—to the Clerk of the town in which one or both of the parties reside. Penalty for each neglect, from twenty to one hundred dollars.

No magistrate or minister is authorized to solemnize a marriage, unless a *certificate* is first delivered to him

from the Clerk of the town in which the parties intending marriage *respectively* dwell, if within the State, or, if there is no such Clerk, from the Clerk of an adjoining town, specifying the time when notice of the intention was entered with such Clerk, together with all the facts required by law to be ascertained and recorded, except those respecting the person before whom the marriage is to be solemnized. Accordingly, it appears, that, if the parties reside in different towns within the State, *two* certificates are requisite (one from each town); if residents of the same town, but *one*. If only one of the parties is a resident of the State, the certificate of the town in which such party resides will suffice; if neither party resides therein, no certificate of intention is requisite.

No Justice of the Peace is authorized to solemnize marriage except in the County for which he is commissioned; and then, only, when one of the parties to be married resides in such County. Any Minister of the gospel who continues to perform the functions of his office, and is a resident of the Commonwealth, is authorized to solemnize marriages; but only in the city or town in which such Minister or in which one of the parties to be married, resides.

Every Magistrate and Minister is forbidden to solemnize marriage between parties either of whom he has reason to suppose is *under the full age* required by law, unless with the consent (which should be in writing) of the parent or guardian, if any in the State competent to act, even though a certificate of intention may have been issued by the Clerk.

It not unfrequently happens that either unwittingly or by design important particulars descriptive of the

parties intending marriage,—as the name, age, condition or parentage,—are incorrectly reported to the Town Clerk, and as the information is often given by some person other than one of the said parties, it is not in the power of the Clerk readily to detect inaccuracies which would perhaps be manifest were the parties themselves in his presence. The duty, therefore, must devolve upon the Person Officiating to carefully scrutinize the particulars entered in the certificate of notice of intention of marriage issued by the Clerk, if he would avoid solemnizing a marriage unauthorized by law, or issuing a certificate, in which he has reason to suppose that the parties to the marriage are *erroneously* or *falsely* described.

Ministers and others solemnizing marriages, cannot be too *earnestly impressed* with the importance of *timely and accurate* returns of the facts required by law respecting *every* marriage solemnized before them. The faithful record of these facts, aside from its importance statistically, may often prove of direct and incalculable benefit to the parties to the marriage contract, and to their prospective offspring, the protection of whose interests was the primary object of the statutory provisions, and great injustice to innocent parties may and not unfrequently does result from delay or failure in making the proper returns, on the part of those before whom marriages are solemnized.

OF PARTIES LIVING IN THE STATE AND MARRYING OUT OF IT.

When the marriage of one or both of whom reside in this State is solemnized in another State, the parties must within *seven* days after their return, file with the

Clerk of the town in which either of them resided, a certificate or declaration of the marriage, with all the particulars required by law. Penalty for neglect,—ten dollars.

INQUIRIES TO BE MADE FOR BIRTHS NOT OTHERWISE ASCERTAINED.

In obtaining the information required by law respecting *births*, not previously reported by parents, undertakers, or others, it is customary for the Town Clerk *once*—and in certain of the larger places *twice*—in each year, either personally or by agent, to make inquiries from house to house concerning the children born since the time with reference to which the last previous inquiries were made. The continuation of this practice is recommended, and *no tenement or family should be omitted in the canvass*.

The Town Clerks, or the persons deputed by them to make inquiries concerning births, should also, in connection with such inquiries, ascertain the particulars respecting *deaths* which may have taken place within the period of time over which the inquiries extended, if there is reason to believe that any such have occurred which have not been duly furnished for record by the persons having charge of the interments and funeral rites preliminary.

If all the *deaths* which occur in the town have been duly ascertained and recorded, according to law, and if the *births of children deceased* who were born during the year, have also been properly entered in the record-book of births, according to the instructions, the additional information to be elicited at the

time of these periodical inquiries will be confined to the *births of children who are then living*, and of which the registrar has not been already notified. In order that no birth occurring in the State may escape unnoticed, the inquiries should extend to the cases of children then residing in the town, but *born elsewhere*, if born during the year, and not included in previous inquiries.

WHAT BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS ARE TO BE RECORDED.

It will be observed that the Clerk is to record all Births of children who may *die* in his town, if born during the current year, and all Births of children who may be *living* in the town at the time when the periodical inquiries are made if born during the year,—in either case, whether born in such town or elsewhere ;—also, all Marriages which may be solemnized in his town, regardless of the place of residence of the parties, and such Marriages solemnized elsewhere, of persons residing in said town, as may be returned to him ;—also, all Deaths which may occur in the town, whether of residents or non-residents, and such of the Deaths of persons residing in the town but dying elsewhere as may be returned to him, for registration.

It is the

DUTY OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE STATE ALMSHOUSES at Monson, Tewksbury, and Bridgewater, to make record of each birth and death which may happen in the respective institutions under their charge, and on or before the second day of February of each year to transmit to the Secretary of the Commonwealth a certi-

fied copy of the record for the official year preceding. From these duties in regard to the above institutions the Clerks in said towns are exempt.

PARENTS AND OTHERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

As heretofore, parents are required to give notice to the clerk, of the births and deaths of their children; every householder is to give like notice of every birth and death happening in his house; the eldest person next of kin, like notice of the death of his kindred; masters of ships, keepers of workhouses, houses of correction, prisons, hospitals, and almshouses—except the three State almshouses,—to give like notice of every birth and death happening among the persons under their respective charges, under penalty of a sum not exceeding five dollars, for neglect to give such notice for the space of six months after each event.

Parents and other relatives of children born, or of persons deceased, and the occupiers of tenements in which any births or deaths may take place, should be encouraged to report, as soon after the event as may be, every case of birth which may occur, and such (if any) of the cases of death as may not have been duly returned by the persons having charge of the burial or rites preliminary;—but experience has demonstrated that this source of information cannot with certainty be depended on, and that, in efficient systems of registration the responsibility must fall upon a *few* well instructed officers.

OF FEES.

The Undertaker or other person making return of a death to the Town Clerk is entitled to receive from his city or town the fee of ten cents therefor.

The Town Clerk is to receive for each Birth obtained, recorded, indexed and returned to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, a fee of twenty cents ;—for each Marriage, ten cents ;—for each of the first twenty entries of Death, twenty cents, and for each subsequent entry, ten cents. The fees are to be paid by the city or town, the account of the Clerk having first been verified and signed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The Clerk is also entitled to receive for each certificate of entry of intention of marriage issued by him, a fee of fifty cents from the parties applying therefor. Also for all certificates of transcripts of the records in his office, reasonable fees, from the persons applying.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

Blank forms of certificates and other returns, also copies of instructions may be obtained by the several officers on application to the Town Clerk or Registrar. The several forms are designed to be filled out *in ink*, when returned to the Clerk.

In places in which the duties pertaining to the burial of the dead devolve exclusively upon officers chosen by the town (as on Undertakers), the efficiency of the system of registration will be promoted should the selection of such officers depend upon the Selectmen and Town Clerk, rather than upon open nomination and election at town meeting.

Town clerks and registrars are requested, as heretofore, to accompany their annual returns to the secretary of the Commonwealth, with such comments and remarks as may seem to them interesting or important.

They are also requested to return, from time to time, to this office, the names and residences of those who are remiss in making returns.

CONCLUSION.

The earnest coöperation of the several town clerks and registrars, upon whom manifestly the responsibility chiefly rests, is confidently relied on to give efficiency to the provisions of the statutes. By a faithful and general coöperation the returns will be rendered of real value to the varied interests concerned, and the registration system of Massachusetts will soon compare not unfavorably in completeness and practical utility, with the most perfect systems of European registration.

A P P E N D I X .

STATISTICAL NOSOLOGY.

ADOPTED FOR REGISTRATION IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The following plan of a Nomenclature and Classification of Diseases does not essentially differ from that authorized by the Registrar-General of England to be used in the preparation of the "Weekly Return of Births and Deaths in London," and is also, with slight modifications, identical with that embodied in a report drawn up by William Farr, Esq., M. D., of London, for the consideration of the International Statistical Congress which met at Paris in September, 1855; which report was printed in the Appendix to the Sixteenth Registration Report of the Registrar-General, England. The Congress adopted the suggested Nomenclature, but did not come to a decision as to Classification.

[NOTE.—The Latinized names of classes and of orders are derived from Greek roots which may help the memory, and suggest, but will never define, the classes.]

CLASSES.

- CLASS I. ZYMOTIC DISEASES:—*Zymotici*. (ζύμη, leaven.)
Diseases that are either epidemic, endemic, or contagious; induced by some specific body, or by the want or by the bad quality of food.
- CLASS II. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES:—*Cachectici*. (καχεξία, bad habit of body.)
Sporadic diseases; affecting several organs in which new morbid products are often deposited; sometimes hereditary.
- CLASS III. LOCAL DISEASES:—*Monorganici*. (μόνος, alone, without others; ὄργανον, organ.)
Sporadic diseases, in which the functions of particular organs or systems are disturbed or obliterated, with without *inflammation*; sometimes hereditary.
- CLASS VI. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES:—*Metamorphici*. (μεταμορφώσεις, change of form.)
Special diseases, the incidental result of the formative, reproductive, and nutritive processes.
- CLASS V. VIOLENT DISEASES OR DEATHS:—*Thanatici*. (θάνατοι, violent deaths.)
Diseases which are the evident and direct results of physical or chemical forces, acting either by the will of the sufferer, of other persons, or accidentally.

ORDERS.

- CLASS I. Order 1. *Miasmatic diseases* :—Misasmatici. (μιασμα, stain, defilement.)
 2. *Enthetic diseases* :—Entheticici. (ἐνθετος, put in; implanted.)
 3. *Dietic diseases* :—Dietici. (διαίτα, way of life; diet.)
 4. *Parasitic diseases* :—Parasitici. (παράσιτος, parasite.)
- CLASS II. Order 1. *Diathetic diseases* :—Diathetici. (διάθεσις, condition, diathesis.)
 2. *Tubercular diseases* :—Phthisici. (φθίσις, wasting away.)
- Diseases of—
- CLASS III. Order 1. *Nervous system* :—Cephalici. (κεφαλή, head.)
 2. *Organs of circulation* :—Cardiaci. (καρδια, heart.)
 3. *Respiratory organs* :—Pneumonici. (πνεύμων, lung.)
 4. *Digestive organs* :—Enterici. (έντερον, intestine.)
 5. *Urinary organs* :—Nephritici. (νεφρός, kidney.)
 6. *Organs of generation* :—Aidoici. (αἰδοῖα, pudenda.)
 7. *Organs of locomotion* :—Myostici. (μῦς, muscle; ὀστέον, bone.)
 8. *Integumentary system* :—Chrotici. (χρῶς, skin.)
- CLASS IV. Order 1. *Developmental diseases of children* :—Paidiaci. (παιδια, youth.)
 2. *Developmental diseases of women* :—Gyniaci. (γυνή, woman.)
 3. *Developmental diseases of old people* :—Geratici. (γῆρας, old age.)
 4. *Diseases of nutrition* :—Atrophici. (ἀτροφία, atrophy.)
- CLASS V. Order 1. *Accident* :—Tychici. (τύχη, chance.)
 2. *Battle* :—Polemici. (πόλεμος, a battle, fight.)
 3. *Homicide* :—Androphonici. { ἀνὴρ, man; αὐτόν, self;
 4. *Suicide* :—Autophonici. { φονεῖω, I murder, kill.
 5. *Execution* :—Demiotici. (δημῳότης, executioner.)

[NOTE.—This page and those that follow contain two lists of causes of death. The first,—that on the left side,—may be called the TABULAR LIST, and comprises all the heads which it is proposed to admit into the complete tables, and under which ALL deaths, from whatever cause, must eventually be distributed. It represents those diseases which, under the same terms, or terms strictly synonymous with them, are found in practice to occur most frequently.

The SUPPLEMENTAL LIST is *subordinate* to the first, and contains the principal *special* diseases which it may be considered desirable to note. But it should be observed, that *every* case marked here is also to be enumerated under one or other head in the tabular list. The tabular heads under which it is proposed to place such special cases are shown by references in figures. The special cases are referred to those heads to which they are most nearly allied. It will be found that the special cases are few, and will not affect the larger numbers in the tables to any important extent.]

CAUSES OF DEATH.

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST
CLASS I. ZYMOTIC DISEASES.	<i>Of Diseases of Special Character, or rarely fatal.</i>
ORDER 1.— <i>Miasmatic.</i>	
I. 1.—1. Smallpox, ...	I. 1.—1. Vaccination not stated
2. Measles, ...	Smallpox (2d attack).
3. Scarlatina, ...	After vaccination.
4. Quinsy, ...	Erysipelas, &c., after
5. Croup, ...	vaccination.
6. Whooping Cough, ...	Chickenpox.
	Miliaria.
7. Typhus (and Infantile Fever,)	3. Angina maligna.
8. Erysipelas, ...	Diphtheria.
9. Metria (or Puerperal Fever,)	4. Mumps.
10. Carbuncle, ...	
	7. Typhoid fever.
11. Influenza, ...	8. Phlebitis.
	Pyemia.
12. Dysentery, ...	Hospital gangrene.
13. Diarrhœa, ...	Erythema.
14. Cholera Infantum, ...	
15. Cholera, ...	17. Yellow fever.
	18. Rheumatism, with
16. Ague, ...	pericarditis, or dis-
17. Remittent Fever, ...	ease of heart.
18. Rheumatism, ...	
ORDER 2.— <i>Enthetic.</i>	
I. 2.—1. Syphilis, ...	I. 2.—1. Gonorrhœa.
2. Stricture of Urethra, ...	Purulent ophthalmia.
3. Hydrophobia, ...	4. Necusia, (usually from
4. Glanders, ...	dissection wounds.)
	Malignant pustule.

CAUSES OF DEATH—(CONTINUED).

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS I.—(Continued.)	
ORDER 3.— <i>Dietic.</i>	
I. 3.—1. Privation, ... 2. Purpura and Scurvy, ... 3. Delirium tremens, } (Alcoholism, 4. Intemperance, })	I. 3.—1. Want of Breast Milk. 2. Rickets. Bronchocele.
* ORDER 4.— <i>Parasitic.</i>	
I. 4.—1. Thrush, ... 2. Worms, &c., ...	I. 4.—2. Porrigo. Scabies. Tape worm. Hydatids.
CLASS II. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.	
ORDER 1.— <i>Diathetic.</i>	
II. 1.—1. Gout, ... 2. Dropsy and Anæmia, ... 3. Cancer, ... 4. Noma (or Canker,) 5. Mortification, ...	II. 1.—3. Soft cancer. Sweep's cancer. Melanosis. Other kinds of cancer. Polypus (part not stated). Lupus. 5. Bed-sore. Dry gangrene.
ORDER 2.— <i>Tubercular.</i>	
II. 2.—1. Scrofula, ... 2. Tabes Mesenterica, ... 3. Phthisis (Consumption of Lungs,) 4. Hydrocephalus, ...	II. 2.—1. Psoas abscess. Lumbar abscess. White swelling. Cretinism. 2. Tubercular peritonitis 3. Hæmoptysis. 4. Tubercular meningitis.
CLASS III. LOCAL DISEASES.	
ORDER 1.— <i>Nervous System.</i>	
III. 1.—1. Cephalitis, ... 2. Apoplexy, ... 3. Paralysis, ... 4. Insanity, ... 5. Chorea, ... 6. Epilepsy, ... 7. Tetanus, ... 8. Convulsions, ... 9. Brain Diseases,* &c., ...	III. 1.—1. Myelitis. 4. Monomania. Fright. Grief. Melancholia. Rage. 6. Hysteria. 8. Laryngismus stridulus. 9. Neuralgia. Ophthalmia. Otitis. Dis. of spinal marrow. Necrencephalus (Softening of Brain.)

* Other diseases of the brain, or diseases of the nervous system, *not otherwise distinguished*, are referred to this head. *Mutatis mutandis*, the note applies to the corresponding heads in other orders of this class.

CAUSES OF DEATH—(CONTINUED.)

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS III.—(Continued.)	
ORDER 2.— <i>Organs of Circulation.</i>	
III. 2.—1. Pericarditis, ... 2. Aneurism, ... 3. <i>Heart Diseases,* &c.,</i>	III. 2.—1. Carditis. Endocarditis. 3. Hypertrophia.— Angina pectoris. Syncope. Arteritis. Hydropicardium.
ORDER 3.— <i>Respiratory Organs.</i>	
III. 3.—1. Epistaxis, ... 2. Laryngitis, ... 3. Bronchitis, ... 4. Pleurisy, ... 5. Pneumonia, ... 6. Asthma, ... 7. <i>Lung Diseases,* &c.,</i>	III. 3.—2. Œdema glottidis. 4. Empyema. Hydrothorax. Diaphragmitis. Pneumothorax. 5. Pulmonary apoplexy. 6. Grinder's Asthma. Miner's Asthma. Emphysema.
ORDER 4.— <i>Digestive Organs.</i>	
III. 4.—1. Gastritis, ... 2. Enteritis, ... 3. Peritonitis, ... 4. Ascites, ... 5. Ulceration of Intestines, ... 6. Hernia, ... 7. Ileus, ... 8. Intussusception, ... 9. Stricture of Intestines, ... 10. Fistula, ... 11. <i>Stomach Diseases,* &c.,</i> 12. <i>Pancreas Disease,* &c.,</i> 13. Hepatitis, ... 14. Jaundice, ... 15. <i>Liver Disease,* &c.,</i> 16. <i>Spleen Disease,* &c.,</i>	III. 4.—1. Glossitis. Stomatitis. Pharyngitis. Œsophagitis. 5. Perforation of— 6. Congenital. Femoral. Inguinal. Scrotal. Umbilical. Ventral. 7. Constipation. 11. Dyspepsia. Pyrosis. Gastralgia. Hæmatemesis. Melæna. Hæmorrhoids. 14. Gall-stones. 15. Cirrhosis.
ORDER 5.— <i>Urinary Organs.</i>	
III. 5.—1. Nephritis, ... 2. Ischuria, ... 3. Nephria, (Bright's disease,) 4. Diabetes, ... 5. Calculus (Gravel, &c.,) 6. Cystitis, ... 7. <i>Kidney Disease,* &c.,</i>	III. 5.—6. Cystirrheæ. 7. Diuresis. Hæmaturia Dis. of prostate. Dis. of bladder.
ORDER 6.— <i>Generative Organs.</i>	
III. 6.—1. Ovarian Dropsy, ... 2. <i>Disease of Uterus,* &c.,</i>	III. 6.—2. Orchitis. Hydrocele. Hysteritis, (Inflam- mation of Womb.) Ovarian tumor. Uterine tumor. Polypus uteri.

* See note under III. 1.—9.

CAUSES OF DEATH—(CONTINUED.)

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS III.—(Continued.)	
ORDER 7.— <i>Organs of Locomotion.</i>	
III. 7.—1. Arthritis, ... 2. Joint Disease,* &c., ...	III. 7.—1. Ostitis. Periostitis. 2. Fragilitas oss. Mollit. oss. Caries. Necrosis. Exostosis.
ORDER 8.— <i>Integumentary System.</i>	
III. 8.—1. Phlegmon, ... 2. Ulcer, ... 3. Skin Diseases,* &c., ...	III. 8.—1. Abscess (part not stated). Boil. Whitlow. 3. Roseola. Urticaria. Eczema. Herpes. Pemphigus. Ecthyma. Impetigo. Psoriasis. Ichthyosis. Tumor (part not stated).
CLASS IV. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.	
ORDER 1.— <i>Developmental Diseases of Children.</i>	
IV. 1.—1. Stillborn, ... 2. Premature Birth, and Infantile Debility, ... 3. Cyanosis, ... 4. Spina Bifida, ... 5. Other Malformations, ... 6. Teething, ...	IV. 1.—2. Atelectasis. 5. Anus imperforatus. Cleft palate. Idiocy.
ORDER 2.— <i>Developmental Diseases of Women.</i>	
IV. 2.—1. Paramenia, ... 2. Childbirth. (See Metria I. 1.-9.)	IV. 2.—1. Chlorosis. Climacteria. Menorrhagia. 2. Miscarriage. Abortion. Puerperal mania. Phlegmasia dolens. Caesarian operation. Extra-uterine foetation. Flooding. Retention of placenta. Presentation of placenta. Deformed pelvis. Breast abscess.
ORDER 3.— <i>Developmental Diseases of Old People.</i>	
IV. 3.—1. Old Age, ...	
ORDER 4.— <i>Diseases of Nutrition.</i>	
IV. 4.—1. Atrophy and Debility, ...	

* See Note under III. 1.—9.

CAUSES OF DEATH—(CONTINUED.)

TABULAR LIST.	SUPPLEMENTAL LIST.
CLASS V. VIOLENT DEATHS.	
ORDER 1.— <i>Accident or Negligence.</i>	
V. 1.—1. Fractures and Contusions,*	
2. Wounds, ...	
3. Burns and Scalds, ...	
4. Poison, ...	
5. Drowning, ...	
6. Suffocation, ...	
7. Otherwise, ...	
ORDER 3.†— <i>Homicide.</i>	
ORDER 4.— <i>Suicide.</i>	
V. 4.—1. Wounds, ...	
2. Poison, ...	
3. Drowning, ...	
4. Hanging, ...	
5. Otherwise, ...	
ORDER 5.— <i>Execution.</i>	
V. 5.—1. Hanging, ...	
Violent Deaths, not classed, ...	
Sudden, cause unascertained, ...	

* Including "Railroad Accidents."

† Order 2—Comprising Violent Deaths IN BATTLE, is omitted, as inapplicable to the civil population.

NOTE.—Where a person is "found drowned," the coroners, as in some other cases, do not always succeed in discovering whether the case is a suicide, a murder, or an accident. All such cases are classed under "accident or negligence." Cases of "infantile fever" are classed with those of typhoid, relapsing, and other continued fevers, under one name "typhus." Cases of "rheumatic fever" are classed with "rheumatism;" of "hemorrhage," and "abscess," with the diseases of the organs affected. Cases of "neglect" and "cold," except when the result of privation, (Class I. 3.—1,) are placed (with notes) under deaths by "accident or negligence," (V. 1. 7.) As "stricture of the urethra" is almost invariably the result of gonorrhœa, it is classed as I. 2.—2.

SCHEDULE A.

RETURN OF A BIRTH.

1. Full Name of CHILD, .	<i>Robert Minot Hyde.</i>
2. Sex, ...	<i>Male.</i>
3. Color,*	<i>W.</i>
4. Date, ...	<i>January 9th, 1860.</i>
5. Place of Birth, ...	<i>30 Harvard St., Cambridge.</i>
6. Full Name of FATHER, .	<i>John Robert Hyde.</i>
7. Occupation, ...	<i>Carpenter.</i>
8. Birthplace, ...	<i>Dover, England.</i>
9. Residence, ...	<i>30 Harvard St., Cambridge.</i>
10. Full Name of MOTHER, .	<i>Louise Hyde.</i>
(Maiden Name,)	<i>" Lefort.</i>
11. Birthplace, ...	<i>Lyons, France.</i>
12. Residence, ...	<i>30 Harvard St., Cambridge.</i>

* (W.) White. (A.) African. (M.) Mixed White and African. If of other Races, specify what.

Dated at *Cambridge, January 20th, 1860.*

SCHEDULE B.

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

1. Full Name of GROOM, .	<i>Charles Green Emerson.</i>
2. His place of Residence, .	<i>Springfield, Mass.</i>
3. Age, ...	<i>32 Years.</i>
4. Occupation, ...	<i>Merchant.</i>
5. Color,*	<i>W.</i>
6. Number of the Marriage, .	<i>First.</i>
7. Place of Birth, ...	<i>New York City, N. Y.</i>
8. Father's Name, ...	<i>William Emerson.</i>
9. Mother's Name, ...	<i>Jane Emerson, (m. n.) Green.</i>
10. Full Name of BRIDE, .	<i>Susan Lincoln Curtis.</i>
(Maiden Name, if a Widow,) .	<i>" " Newman.</i>
11. Her place of Residence, .	<i>Chicago.</i>
12. Age, ...	<i>24 Years.</i>
13. Color,*	<i>W.</i>
14. Number of the Marriage, .	<i>Second.</i>
15. Place of Birth, ...	<i>Springfield.</i>
16. Father's Name, ...	<i>Thomas Newman, (dec.)</i>
17. Mother's Name, ...	<i>Maria Newman, (m. n.) —.</i>

* (W.) White. (A.) African. (M.) Mixed White and African. If of other Races, specify what.

NOTE—m. n. denotes Maiden Name.

The Intentions of Marriage by the parties above named were duly entered by me in Records of the *City of Springfield*, according to law, this *fourteenth* day of *February*, A. D. 1860.

William Wallis, City Clerk.

The parties above named were joined at *Springfield*, by me, this *fourth* day of *March*, A. D. 1860.

Attest,† *Robert Baxter, Pastor of First Congregational Church, Springfield.*

† Stating Official Station and Residence.

[BACK OF "CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE."]

 The whole Certificate, or a certified copy thereof, is required by law to be returned by the *Person Officiating, on or before the tenth day of the month next following*, to the Clerk of the town in which the Marriage was solemnized: and, also, if neither of the Parties to the Marriage resides in such town, to the Clerk of the town in which one or both of such parties reside; under a Penalty of not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars for each neglect.

SCHEDULE C.

RETURN OF A DEATH.

TO THE CLERK OF THE TOWN IN WHICH THE DEATH OCCURRED.

1. Name, ...	<i>Eliza Andrews, (m. n.) Jones.</i>
2. Date of Death, ...	<i>March 10th, 1860, 3.30 A. M.</i>
3. Place of Death, ...	<i>Brighton St., West Roxbury.</i>
4. Residence, ...	<i>— Chicago, Ill.</i>
5. Sex, and whether Single, Married or Widowed, . .	<i>Widow (of Wm. Andrews.)</i>
6. Age, ...	<i>43 Years, 10 Months, 15 Days.</i>
7. Color,*	<i>W^e.</i>
8. Occupation, ...	<i>Milliner.</i>
9. Disease or { First, ...	<i>Dysphus, 12 days.</i>
Cause of {	
Death, { Second, (if any), . .	<i>Peritonitis, 10 hours (p. m.)</i>
10. Place of Birth, ...	<i>Salem.</i>
11. Place of Interment, ...	<i>Forest Hills Cemetery, W. R.</i>
12. Name of Father, ...	<i>Samuel Jones, (dec.)</i>
13. Birthplace of Father, ...	<i>Concord, N. H.</i>
14. Name of Mother, ...	<i>Eliza Jones, (m. n.) Sears.</i>
15. Birthplace of Mother, ...	<i>Concord, N. H.</i>
Signature of Undertaker or other person making the Return, ...	<i>James Eddy, Undertaker.</i>

* W. White. (A.) African. (M.) Mixed White and African. If of other Races, specify what.

NOTE.—m. n. denotes Maiden Name; p. m. denotes *post mortem* examination.Dated at *West Roxbury, 12th March, 1860.*

[BACK OF "RETURN OF A DEATH."]

 The Undertaker, or other informant, is requested to report the facts—together with the Physician's Certificate of the Causes of Death—to the Town Clerk, BEFORE THE INTERMENT.

 In case of an interment taking place, without the Certificate of Registry of the Clerk of the Town in which the Death occurred, (or the deceased resided,) having first been obtained, the person having charge of such Interment must FORTHWITH GIVE NOTICE thereof to said Clerk. Penalty for neglect, twenty dollars.

 Blank forms of Returns may be obtained from the Town Clerk.

SCHEDULE D.

PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH.

TO THE CLERK OR REGISTRAR OF THE TOWN OR CITY IN WHICH THE DEATH OCCURRED.

Name and Sex of Deceased,	Ellis Sumner, Male.
Date and Place of Death, .	February 15th, 1860. 14 Warren Street, Boston.
Disease, {	Smallpox, (Petechnial.)
or Cause {	Duraton of,* 12 days.
Second, (if any), .	Duraton of, 1 day.
of Death, {	
	Reaccinated, 15 years ago. Effect doubtful.

* Reckoned to the time of death.

I certify that the above is a true Return, to the best of my recollection and belief.

Name, Professional Title, and Residence, Henry Armstrong, M.D., 14 Louisburg Square.
Dated at Boston, February 16th, 1860.

[BACK OF "PHYSICIAN'S CERTIFICATE."]

Any Physician having attended a person during his last illness, shall—when requested within fifteen days after the decease of such person—*furnish* furnish for registration a certificate of the duration of the last sickness, the disease of which the person died, and the date of his decease, as nearly as he can state the same. . . . [GENERAL STATUTES, CHAPTER 21, SECTION 3.]

☞ The attending Physician is requested to make out his Certificate as promptly as possible, for the information and use of the Undertaker, or other person making return of the case to the Town Clerk.

☞ Physicians may obtain BLANK CERTIFICATES from the Town Clerk or Registrar.

☞ Copies of the STATISTICAL NOSOLOGY, adopted for the purposes of Registration, may be obtained on application to the SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

SCHEDULE E.

TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF THE REGISTRY OF A DEATH.

I, *John Nichols*, Clerk of the Town of *West Roxbury*, do hereby certify, that the death of *Eliza Andrews*, who died at *Brighton Street, 10th March, 1860*, aged *43* years, *10* months, *15* days, was duly registered by me on the *thirteenth* day of *March*, *1860*.

(Signed,)

John Nichols,
Town Clerk.

Dated this *thirteenth* day of *March*, *1860*.

[To be delivered *before the burial*, when practicable, by the Person making the Return of the Death, to the Person having the charge of the Interment, if other than himself.]

SCHEDULE F.

CERTIFICATE OF THE REGISTRY OF A DEATH, AND PERMISSION TO REMOVE FOR INTERMENT.

Permission is hereby given to *James Wheeler* to remove the body of *Ellis Sumner*, who died at *14 Warren Street, February 15th, 1860*, aged *20* years, *14* months, *10* days, for interment at *Mount Auburn, Cambridge*; the particulars required by law having been duly registered by me on the *seventeenth* day of *February*, *1860*.

(Signed,)

Edward Lawrence.

City-Registrar and Superintendent of Burials.

Dated at *Boston*, *March 17th*, *1860*.

*

SCHEDULE G.

[FORM OF RECORD BOOK OF BIRTHS.]

BIRTHS registered in the *City of Cambridge.*

[LEFT HAND PAGE.]

No.	Date of Birth.	Name of the Child, (if any,) and Color.	1. Sex. 2. Condition.*	Place of Birth.	1. Name of Father. 2. Name of Mother.
30.	1880, January 10,	Robert Minot Hyde,	Male,	30 Harvard Street, Cambridge.	John Robert Hyde. Louise Hyde, (m. n.) Lefort.

[RIGHT HAND PAGE.]

Benjamin Wells, Registrar.

Residence of Parents.	Occupation of Father.	Place of Birth of Father.	Place of Birth of Mother.	Informant.	When Registered.
30 Harvard Street, Cambridge.	Carpenter.	Dover, England.	Lyons, France.	John Robert Hyde, Father.	January 22, 1880.

* As twin, triplet, &c., or as illegitimate.

SCHEDULE II.

[FORM OF RECORD BOOK OF MARRIAGES.]

MARRIAGES registered in the *City of Springfield,*

[LEFT HAND PAGE.]

No.	Date of Marriage.	Names and Surnames and Color of Groom and Bride.	Residence of each at time of Marriage.	Age of each in years.	Occupation of each.
15.	1860, March 4,	<i>Charles Green Emerson.</i> <i>Susan Lincoln Curtis, (m. n.) Newman.</i>	<i>Springfield,</i> <i>Chicopee,</i>	32 24	<i>Merchant.</i>

County of *Hampden.* *William Wallis, Registrar.*

[RIGHT HAND PAGE.]

Place of Birth of each.	1. Names of Parents of Groom. 2. Names of Parents of Bride.	What Marriage, whether 1st, 2d, 3d, &c.	Name and Official Station of Person by whom Married.	Date of Registry.
<i>New York City, N. York.</i> <i>Springfield.</i>	<i>William E.; Jane E. (m. n.) Green.</i> <i>Thomas N. (dec.); Maria N. (m. n.) —.</i>	<i>First.</i> <i>Second.</i>	<i>Robert Baxter, Pastor 1st Congregational Church, Springfield.</i>	<i>April 2, 1860.</i>

SCHEDULE J.

[FORM OF RECORD BOOK OF DEATHS.]

DEATHS registered in the *Town of West Roxbury.*

[LEFT HAND PAGE.]

No.	Date of Death.	Name and Surname and Color of the Deceased.	Age.			1. Place of Death. 2. Residence.	Sex, and Condition (as single, married, or widowed.)	Occupation.
			Year.	M th .	Days.			
11.	1890, March 10, 8½ A. M.	Eliza Andrews, (m. n.) Jones.	43	10	15	1. Brighton St., W. Roxbury. 2. Chicago, Illinois.	Widow (of William Andrews.)	Milliner.

John Nichols, Registrar.

[RIGHT HAND PAGE.]

Place of Birth.	Names and Birthplaces of Parents.	Disease or Cause of Death.	Place of Interment.	Informant, or Undertaker.	When Registered.
Salem.	Samuel Jones, (dec.) Concord, N. H. Eliza Jones, (m. n.) Sears, Concord, N. H.	Typhus, 12 days. Peritonitis, 10 hours (p. m.)	Forest Hills Cemetery, West Roxbury.	James Eddy, Undertaker.	March 13.

L A W S

CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS. .

[General Statutes—Chapter 21.]

OF THE REGISTRY AND RETURNS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

SECTION

1. City and Town Clerks to obtain, record, and index certain facts concerning Births, Marriages, and Deaths.
2. Parents and others to give notice of Births and Deaths.
3. Physician to give Certificate of Cause of Death, when requested. Penalty.
4. Town Clerk to give Certificate of Registry of Death to the Person having charge of funeral rites *preliminary* to Interment, who shall deliver the same to the Person having charge of the Interment. No Interment to take place without such Certificate. Penalty, if Interment be without Certificate, and if Notice be not forthwith given, twenty dollars.
5. Clerk annually to transmit certified Copies of Record to Secretary.

SECTION

6. Record or Certificate of Clerk to be *prima facie* evidence in Legal Proceedings.
7. Clerks—Fees of, payable by City or Town ; Accounts of, to be certified by Secretary. Penalty for non-performance of duty.
8. Superintendents of State Almshouses to obtain, record and return to Secretary, births and deaths. Town Clerks exempt.
9. Secretary to furnish Blank Books and Forms for returns, with Instructions and Explanations. Clerks to distribute the Blank Forms for Returns.
10. Secretary,—to cause Returns to be bound, &c. ;—to Report to Legislature, &c. ;—to do all other acts necessary.
11. Registrars may be chosen, in certain cases, in place of Town Clerks.

SECTION 1. The clerk of each city and town shall receive or obtain, and record, and index, the following facts concerning the births, marriages, and deaths, therein, separately numbering and recording the same in the order in which he receives them, designating in separate columns :

In the record of births, the date of the birth, the place of birth, the name of the child, (if it have any,) the sex and color of the child, the names and the places of birth of the parents, the occupation of the father, the residence of the parents, and the date of the record :

In the record of marriages, the date of the marriage, the place of marriage, the name, residence, and official station of the person by whom married, the names and the places of birth of the parties, the residence of each, the age and color of each, the condition of each, (whether single or widowed,) the occupation, the names of the parents, and the date of the record ;

In the record of deaths, the date of the death, the name of the deceased, the sex, the color, the condition, (whether single, widowed,

or married,) the age, the residence, the occupation, the place of death, the place of birth, the names and places of birth of the parents, the disease or cause of death, the place of burial, and the date of the record.

SECTION 2. Parents shall give notice to the clerk of their city or town of the births and deaths of their children; every householder shall give like notice of every birth and death happening in his house; the eldest person next of kin shall give such notice of the death of his kindred; the keeper of a workhouse, house of correction, prison, hospital, or almshouse, except the state almshouses at Tewksbury, Bridgewater, and Monson, and the master or other commanding officer of any ship shall give like notice of every birth and death happening among the persons under his charge. Whoever neglects to give such notice for the space of six months after a birth or death, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding five dollars.

SECTION 3. Any physician having attended a person during his last illness, shall—when requested within fifteen days after the decease of such person—forthwith furnish for registration a certificate of the duration of the last sickness, the disease of which the person died, and the date of his decease, as nearly as he can state the same. If any physician refuses or neglects to make such certificate, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars to the use of the town in which he resides.

SECTION 4. Every sexton, undertaker, or other person having charge of a burial-ground, or the superintendent of burials having charge of the obsequies or funeral rites preliminary to the interment of a human body, shall forthwith obtain and return to the clerk of the city or town in which the deceased resided or the death occurred, the facts required by this chapter to be recorded by said officer concerning the deceased, and the person making such return shall receive from his city or town the fee of ten cents*therefor.

The clerk, upon recording such facts, shall forthwith give to the person making such return, a certificate that such return has been made, which certificate such person shall deliver to the person having charge of the interment, if other than himself, before the burial when practicable, otherwise within seven days thereafter. When a burial takes place and no certificate is delivered as aforesaid, the sexton, undertaker, or other person having charge of the interment, shall forthwith give notice thereof to the clerk under penalty of twenty dollars.

SECTION 5. The clerk of each city and town shall annually on or before the first day of February, transmit to the secretary of the Commonwealth, certified copies of the records of the births, marriages, and deaths, which have occurred therein during the year ending on the last day of the preceding December.

SECTION 6. The record of the town clerk relative to any birth, marriage, or death, shall be *prima facie* evidence, in legal proceedings, of the facts recorded. The certificate signed by the town clerk for the time being shall be admissible as evidence of any such record.

SECTION 7. The clerk shall receive from his city or town for obtaining, recording, indexing, and returning to the secretary of the Commonwealth, the facts in relation to a birth, twenty cents; a marriage, ten cents; a death, twenty cents for each of the first twenty entries, and ten cents for each subsequent entry, as the same shall be certified by the secretary of the Commonwealth; but a city or town containing more than ten thousand inhabitants may limit the aggregate compensation allowed to their clerk. He shall forfeit a sum not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars for each refusal or neglect to perform any duty required of him by this chapter.

SECTION 8. The superintendents of the state almshouses at Tewksbury, Bridgewater, and Monson, shall obtain, record, and make return of, the facts in relation to the births and deaths which occur in their respective institutions, in like manner as is required of town clerks. The clerks of said towns shall, in relation to the births and deaths of persons in said almshouses, be exempt from the duties otherwise required of them by this chapter.

SECTION 9. The secretary shall at the expense of the Commonwealth prepare and furnish to the clerks of the several cities and towns, and to the superintendents of the state almshouses, blank books of suitable quality and size to be used as books of record under this chapter, blank books for indexes thereto, and blank forms for returns, on paper of uniform size; and shall accompany the same with such instructions and explanations as may be necessary and useful. City and town clerks shall make such distribution of blank forms of returns furnished by the secretary as he shall direct.

SECTION 10. The secretary shall cause the returns received by him for each year to be bound together in one or more volumes with indexes thereto. He shall prepare from the returns such tabular results as will render them of practical utility, make report thereof annually to the legislature, and do all other acts necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this chapter.

SECTION 11. Any city or town containing more than ten thousand inhabitants, may choose a person other than the clerk to be registrar, who shall be sworn, and to whom all the provisions of this chapter concerning clerks shall apply. The returns and notices required to be made and given to clerks shall be made and given to such registrar under like penalties.

SECTION 12. The secretary of this Commonwealth shall prosecute, by an action of tort, in the name of the Commonwealth, for the recovery of any penalty or forfeiture imposed by this chapter.

SECTION 13. Any city or town may make rules and regulations to enforce the provisions of this chapter, or to secure a more perfect registration of births, marriages, and deaths, therein.

[General Statutes—Chapter 106.]

OF MARRIAGE.

SECTION

7. Notice of Intention of Marriage to be entered with Town Clerk.
8. Certificate of Record of Intention to be given to Parties by Clerk. Such certificate to be delivered to Person before whom Marriage is to be solemnized.
9. Certificate not to issue to certain Minors, except on application of Parent, &c. Penalty.
10. Clerk may require Affidavit of Age.
11. Penalty for making False Statement.
12. Parties living in State and Married out of it; to file certificate on return. Penalty.
13. No person to solemnize Marriage of a Minor, without consent of Parents, if any in the State competent to act.

SECTION

14. Marriages, by Whom to be solemnized, and in what Place.
15. Marriages among Quakers.
16. Persons solemnizing Marriages to keep Record and to make Returns to certain Town Clerks. Clerk to record all Marriages so returned.
17. Penalty for not making Returns.
18. Penalty for solemnizing a marriage, unlawfully.
19. Penalty, on person not authorized to marry.
21. Record of Marriage, or certified copy thereof, presumptive Evidence of Marriage.

SECTIONS 1, 2 and 3. [Marriage between certain relatives prohibited.]

SECTION 4. [Polygamy forbidden.]

SECTION 5. [Marriage contracted by insane persons or idiots void.]

SECTION 6. [Marriages of persons marrying out of the State, in order to evade, &c., void.]

SECTION 7. Persons intending to be joined in marriage shall, before their marriage, cause notice thereof to be entered in the office of the clerk or registrar of the city or town in which they respectively dwell, if within the State. If there is no such clerk or registrar in the place of their residence, the entry shall be made in an adjoining city or town.

SECTION 8. The clerk or registrar shall deliver to the parties a certificate under his hand, specifying the time when notice of the intention of marriage was entered with him, together with all facts in relation to the marriage required by law to be ascertained and recorded, except those respecting the person by whom the marriage is to be solemnized. Such certificate shall be delivered to the minister or magistrate in whose presence the marriage is to be contracted, before he proceeds to solemnize the same.

SECTION 9. If a clerk or registrar issues such certificate to a male under the age of twenty-one years, or a female under the age of eighteen years, having reasonable cause to suppose the person to

be under such age, except upon the application or consent in writing of the parent, master, or guardian, of such person, he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars; but if there is no parent, master, or guardian, in this State, competent to act, a certificate may be issued without such application or consent.

SECTION 10. The clerk or registrar may require of any person applying for such certificate, an affidavit sworn to before a justice of the peace for the county where the application is made, setting forth the age of the parties; which affidavit shall be sufficient proof of age to authorize the issuing of the certificate.

SECTION 11. Whoever applying for such certificate wilfully makes a false statement in relation to the age or residence, parent, master, or guardian, of either of the parties intending marriage, shall forfeit a sum not exceeding two hundred dollars.

SECTION 12. When a marriage is solemnized in another State between parties living in this State, and they return to dwell here, they shall within seven days after their return, file with the clerk or registrar of the city or town where either of them lived at the time, a certificate or declaration of their marriage, including the facts concerning marriages required by law, and for every neglect they shall forfeit ten dollars.

SECTION 13. No magistrate or minister shall solemnize a marriage, having reasonable cause to suppose either of the parties to be under the age mentioned in section nine, without the consent of the parent or guardian having the custody of the minor, if there is any in the State competent to act.

SECTION 14. Marriages may be solemnized by a justice of the peace in the county for which he is appointed, when either of the parties resides in the same county; and throughout the State by any minister of the gospel ordained according to the usage of his denomination who resides within the State and continues to perform the functions of his office; but all marriages shall be solemnized in the city or town in which the person solemnizing them resides, or in which one or both of the persons to be married reside.

SECTION 15. Marriages among the people called Friends or Quakers may be solemnized in the manner heretofore used and practised in their societies.

SECTION 16. Every justice of the peace, minister, and clerk, or keeper of the records of the meeting wherein any marriages among the Friends or Quakers are solemnized, shall make a record of each marriage solemnized before him, together with all facts relating to the marriage required by law to be recorded. He shall also between the first and tenth days of each month return a copy of the record for the month next preceding, to the clerk or registrar of the city or town in which the marriage was solemnized, and shall when neither of the parties to a marriage resides in the city or town in which the marriage is solemnized, return a copy of the record of such marriage to the clerk or registrar of the city or town in which one or both of said parties reside. All marriages so returned shall be recorded by the clerk or registrar.

SECTION 17. Every person neglecting to make the returns required by the preceding section, shall forfeit for each neglect not less than twenty nor more than one hundred dollars.

SECTION 18. A justice of the peace or minister who joins persons in marriage contrary to the provisions of this chapter, knowing that the marriage is not duly authorized, shall forfeit not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars.

SECTION 19. Whoever undertakes to join persons in marriage knowing that he is not authorized so to do, shall be imprisoned in the jail or confined to hard labor for a term not exceeding six months, or pay a fine of not less than fifty nor more than two hundred dollars.

SECTION 20. [Unintentional informality does not invalidate marriage in other respects lawful.]

SECTION 21. The record of a marriage, made and kept as prescribed by law by the person before whom the marriage is solemnized, or by the clerk or registrar of any city or town, or a copy of such record duly certified, shall be received in all courts and places as presumptive evidence of such marriage.

SECTION 22. [Admission of respondent, general repute, &c., competent evidence to prove the fact of marriage.]

SECTION 23. [Marriage in foreign countries by a consul or diplomatic agent valid, and certificate of such consul or agent presumptive evidence thereof.]

[General Statutes—Chapter 29.]

OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS.

SECTION 10. [Records and files may be inspected and copied. Clerks to certify to transcripts, on payment of a reasonable fee.]

SECTION 11. [Penalties; for altering or mutilating any record, paper, or written document, a sum not exceeding fifty dollars,—for wrongfully detaining records, and other documents, fifty dollars.]

[General Statutes—Section 1 of Chapter 174.]

Sentence when no punishment is provided.

SECTION 1. In cases of legal conviction, where no punishment is provided by statute, the court shall award such sentence as is conformable to the common usage and practice in this State, according to the nature of the offence, and not repugnant to the constitution.

